WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Judicial enquiry into the Bagdighi Coal mine mishap

3479. SHRI RAVISHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Mines Workers Union and the All India Central Council of Trade Unions have demanded a Judicial enquiry into the Bagdighi mishap in BCCL coal mines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the role of the Director-General of Mines Safety has also been criticized by these labour bodies, and they have demanded registration of criminal cases against all the erring official and confiscation of their movable and immovable properties; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to meet these demands and if not, the reasons for not taking appropriate action against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following unions have made representations regarding Bagdighi coal mine accident in BCCL:—

(i) Bihar Colliery Kamgar Union. (CITU).
(ii) Indian Mine Workers Federation. (AITUC).
(iii) National Front of Indian Trade Unions.
(iv) Rastriya Colliery Mazdoor Sangh. (INTUC).
(v) Hind Mazdoor Sabha. (HMS).
(vi) United Coal Workers Union. (AITUC).
(vii) Bihar Pradesh Colliery Mazdoor Congress.
(viii) Rastriya Koyala Khadhan Mazdoor Sangh. (INTUC).
(ix) Dhanbad Colliery Karamchari Sangh. (BMS).
(x) Akhil Bharatiya Khadhan Mazdoor Sangh. (BMS).
(xi) Janata Mazdoor Sangh. (HMS).

All the above unions have demanded judicial inquiry into the accident and stern punishment for any officer of BCCL and DGMS found responsible for the accident.

(c) Ministry of Labour has constituted a Court of Inquiry by Justice Gurusharan Sharma, Judge of the High Court of Jharkand. Necessary action against persons responsible will be initiated after the receipt of report.

Tackling of mine mishaps in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

3480. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "after the mine mishaps, it is operation cover up" in the Times of India, Kolkata, dated 14th February, 2001 regarding tackling of Bagdighi and Chaitudih mine mishaps in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL);

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the follow up action of Government on the report of the probe panel on Gislitand mishap alongwith summary of the recommendations accepted by Government and those which were rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government of India, in exercise of power under Sub Section (I) of Section 24 of Mines Act, 1952 has appointed Justice Gurusharan Sharma, High Court, Jharkand to hold an inquiry into the causes and circumstances attending the accident at Bagdighi mine and to fix up the responsibility for the causes leading to the accident. Prof. Ravindranath, Professor of Mining Engineering of Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Shri Kamlesh Sahay, President CCL Colliery Karamchari Sangh, Barkakana have been appointed as assessors. Enquiry report is in progress.

In respect of Chaitudih mine accident, DGMS and ISO are conducting inquiries.